



Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Request for Proposals: Sector-Specific Workshops in Support of Ocean Planning in New England

Questions and responses received by March 14, 2012 deadline.

1. *Do the topic specific focal areas extend beyond the main topics specified in the RFP: transportation, energy and infrastructure, and aquaculture?*

Response: NROC has other engagement efforts targeting uses such as commercial fishing and recreation, and will be specifically developing and implementing an approach for conservation. If after considering that a proposal wishes to propose additional focal areas, then proposals should do so and provide their justification and rationale.

2. *What level of detail is desired for the technical background papers? Should these be general (about 10 pages), or is significant technical detail desired?*

Response: The response to this will in part relate to the specific scope and agendas for workshops, so proposals should consider tie the two together. In general, NROC anticipates that these technical background papers will include sufficient level of detail to appropriately set up the workshops.

3. *What organizational needs is NROC seeking to meet through this stakeholder engagement effort?*

Response: As stated in the RFP, NROC believes that ocean planning will only be successful if it incorporates a significant level of stakeholder engagement, and if data and information is developed in concert with experts and stakeholders in individual fields.

4. *What data and mapping capabilities will NROC bring to the workshops and other outreach meetings?*

Response: NROC does have some capacity to potentially apply through its Northeast ocean data portal effort. Potential respondents are encouraged to see the data portal on-line at www.northeastoceandata.org. Proposals should specify any potential data and mapping needs proposed as part of these workshops.

5. *What are NROC's key objectives in doing this work (higher visibility, tease out major conflicts, educate and engage stakeholders and begin to build long-term relationships, etc.)?*

Response: all of the above in support of ocean planning, and to continue to build an information foundation for future planning efforts.

6. *What would the ideal team be from NROC's perspective in terms of technical ability and stakeholder engagement?*

Response: See the criteria discussion in the RFP on page 8.

7. *What are NROC members' greatest worries about this project?*

Response: NROC recognizes that these workshops are a critical part of its initial engagement and information development effort, and thus needs to ensure that attendance includes the appropriate people and that agendas are structured to meet project objectives. NROC is concerned about maximizing attendance; selection of location to make it easy for participants to attend will be important, and using existing venues and/or opportunities to help address these concerns should be considered.

8. *Does the term "maritime transportation" include passenger/ cruise ship service, freight/ cargo, and ferry?*

Response: Yes, recognizing differences in emphasis on these uses geographically, and the obvious geographic limitations in most ferry service.

9. *Are there specific definitions related to budget, the use of personnel, etc?*

Response: See the discussion for detailed budget requirements, which includes definitions of terms, on page 7 of the RFP.

10. *In any discussion of travel support for the workshops, would NROC consider support for attendees from outside of the region?*

Response: Potentially yes, although NROC is generally targeting this project at attendees from within New England. Thus, attendees from outside of the region will be considered as they are decided to be necessary to meet workshop objectives, but the majority is anticipated to come from within the region.

11. *Will NROC allow for flexibility to cover travel costs following establishment of a contract to ensure that as workshop agendas are finalized travel can be supported appropriately?*

Response: Yes, although proposals should describe their approach and budget to enable an understanding of the intended approach.

12. *Are there other public engagement elements that NROC is considering?*

Response: Yes